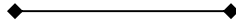


# Middlefield Bible Church Constitution



## Temporary Provision

Until such a time as there is a sufficient number of Scripturally qualified men to serve as Elders and a Church Board is established, Middlefield Bible Church shall be a church-planting ministry of the Ohio Bible Mission, the church's parent organization. During this temporary period, the Pastor shall perform the duties of the Church Board and the Church Clerk as described in this Constitution unless otherwise stated in this paragraph. He shall be under the oversight of the Ohio Bible Mission. He shall report quarterly to the Ohio Bible Mission on the progress of the ministry and submit a quarterly church financial report. The Pastor shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the church. Major decisions such as large missionary gifts, monthly missionary support, and renting, leasing or purchasing property shall be subject to congregational approval at a church business meeting. In the event the church should be without a pastor and when a matter of a serious nature pertains to the Pastor, the church shall look to the Ohio Bible Mission for direction. The Pastor and, if possible, one other man who is a member shall interview those who are interested in becoming members, and if approved, receive them into membership. The Church members shall have the trusteeship of all properties of the church and shall be responsible for their care, control, and use. In every other matter, this constitution shall be in effect during this temporary period.

This Temporary Provision shall automatically become ineffective when a Church Board comprised of Pastor(s) and Elder(s) has been established. At that time the constitution as it appears below shall be in effect in every part.

## Preamble

Middlefield Bible Church is a local assembly of Christian believers separated from the prevailing religious apostasy in the spirit of 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. It is patterned after the New Testament church being made up of witnesses emphasizing the Scriptural thought of the fellowship of believers free from a sectarian spirit remembering that there is one body, the body of Christ, in which body all believers are members. Therefore fellowship with other separated believers, churches, and organizations shall be encouraged.

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be Middlefield Bible Church.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of Middlefield Bible Church shall be the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, for the glorification of God, the salvation of the lost, the edification of the saints, the defense of "the faith once delivered unto the saints," the world-wide proclamation of the gospel in keeping with Christ's great commission, and for our direction in all cooperative Christian activities in harmony with God's Word.

In keeping with this purpose, Middlefield Bible Church may hold property to and operate such facilities as needed. These facilities may include but are not limited to the church buildings, Christian schools, Bible institute, college, seminary, retirement center, radio and television stations, and mission agencies, both home and foreign.

**ARTICLE III - POSITION**

The Middlefield Bible Church is independent in polity and fundamental in doctrine and separatist in practice. This position cannot be changed except by a three-fourths majority of the voting members present in a congregational business meeting specially called for that purpose.

**ARTICLE IV - DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

**1. The Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13).

**2. The Godhead**

We believe in one triune God eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—co-eternal in being, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4,5; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

**3. The Person and Work of Christ**

**A.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1, 2,14; Luke 1:35).

**B.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ

accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24, 25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

**C.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our high priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate (Act 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1,2).

**4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

**A.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14).

**B.** We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18).

**5. The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 1:22,23; 5:12;

Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

## **6. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18,19).

## **7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

**A.** We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

**B.** We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

## **8. The Two Natures of the Believer**

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

## **9. Separation**

**A.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that this should include careful obedience to the moral purity of the Word of God, honest financial practice and abstinence from all worldly and sinful pleasures (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1,2; 14:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Titus 2:12).

**B.** We believe that the saved should practice separation from apostasy as represented by the ecumenical movement, local ministerial associations which include members of the National or World Councils of Churches and evangelistic crusades and spiritual causes which unite men of belief and unbelief (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Romans 16:17; 2 John 9-11; Ephesians 5:11).

**C.** We believe that the saved should practice separation from the brethren who repudiate the practice of separation and are careless in their association with men, movements, missions and schools which do not take a separatist position (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Matthew 18:15-18; 1 John 1:7).

## **10. Missions**

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by a life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20).

## **11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

**A.** We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelist, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

**B.** We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick, and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14, 15).

## **12. The Church**

**A.** We believe that the Church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

**B.** We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-30; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

## **13. Baptism**

We believe immersion to be the New Testament mode of baptism to be administered upon personal acceptance and public confession of Christ as Savior. We believe Christ Himself established and commanded this ordinance to symbolize the believer's death to the old life of sin and his spiritual resurrection to the new life in Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 9:18; 10:47,48; Romans 6:3-6).

## **14. Dispensationalism**

We believe in the Dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper Dispensationalism," such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

## **15. The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

## **16. The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent, pretribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to the earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

## **17. The Eternal State**

**A.** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved

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to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Revelation 20:6, 9, 12, 13).

**B.** We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:42; Revelation 20:4-6; 2

Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:13; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

**C.** We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second

resurrection, when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

### **18. Conclusion**

In subscribing to these articles of faith, we by no means set aside or under-value any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; but we deem the knowledge, belief and acceptance of the Truth as set forth in our Doctrinal Statement to be essential to sound faith and fruitful practice and, therefore, requisite for Christian fellowship in the Middlefield Bible Church.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 - Requirements**

Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and gives assurance to the Church board of his serious intent to live a godly life of separation from the world and the apostasy, and of his willingness to receive the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper; who subscribes to our statement of faith and form of government as set forth in this constitution and who will wholeheartedly

support this church and its ministry at home and abroad shall be eligible for membership. No person who is living an immoral lifestyle of adultery, fornication, or homosexuality shall be eligible for membership.

### **Section 2 - Means of Receiving Members**

Eligible persons may be received into membership by the church board upon confession of faith or restatement of faith. The Church Board shall interview prospective members; and, if approved, receive them into membership. New members shall then be publicly received in a regular church service.

### **Section 3 - Responsibilities of Members**

All members should deem it their responsibility to regularly attend all public services possible.

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They should be willing to engage in some part of the work of the church, and in preparation for such work should be engaged in daily Bible reading and prayer as individuals and as families. They should be giving personal and public testimony for Christ by word and deed in an effort to win the lost to Him. They should be regularly supporting the church by systematic proportionate giving as taught in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 16:2).

### **Section 4 - Status of Members**

**Active-** All members regularly attending the church services are considered active members.

**Inactive-** Any member who fails to support the church by his attendance in a service for a period of six months without reason acceptable to the church board shall be considered inactive.

### **Section 5 - Review of Membership**

The Church Board shall review the membership role of the church once each year, at which time, the inactive members may be removed from membership upon notification. If after thirty days of being notified, an inactive member does not give acceptable reason for his absence, he shall be removed from the membership role. The Church Board, at any time, for what it deems good cause, upon notice to the member concerned and after opportunity for hearing, may remove any person from the membership role.

### **Section 6 - Transfer of Members**

Transfer of membership to or from this church will not be transacted by letter. However, a letter of honorable dismissal will be granted to those who wish to unite with a church of like faith elsewhere.

## **ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1 - Authority**

The governmental authority of this church is vested in its active membership, with the Church Board serving as the executive body on behalf of the congregation. All church groups and committees are approved by and are accountable to the Church Board. The constitution and or by-laws of such groups and committees must be in agreement with this constitution and must be approved by the Church Board as must all subsequent changes in said constitution and by-laws. Until a Church Board has been established, these determinations shall be made by the pastor.

### **Section 2 - Trusteeship**

The Church Board and Deacons shall have the trusteeship of all properties of the church and shall be responsible for their care, control, and use. They shall not encumber with loan, transfer, sell, or purchase any real estate for the church except by the express authorization of the congregation, conveyed through a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present and a constitutionally called congregational business meeting.

### **Section 3 - Other Powers**

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The Church Board shall have the authority to call congregational meetings for recommending such actions as require a vote of the congregation and shall have the power to appoint a chairmen for such meetings in case the church is with out a pastor or in case the action in question pertains to the pastor.

The Church Board shall have the authority to appoint individuals or committees to transact business and shall be responsible for filling the pulpit in the absence of the pastor.

The Church Board shall transfer and handle suggestions, recommendations and grievances on the part of any member or organization affiliated with the church.

The Church Board shall have the responsibility for distributing church funds, observing all constitutional restrictions, and shall have the direction of the missionary program of this church.

### **Section 4 - Limitations**

The Church Board shall have such other powers as may be defined by this constitution and shall at all times be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present at a constitutionally called congregational business meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 - Church Board Meetings**

The Church Board shall meet monthly at a time and place of its choosing.

Special meetings may be called at any time when necessary. All board members must be notified except when such special meeting is called for after a regular church service.

Special meetings may be called for by the pastor or by one-third of the members of the Church Board. No meeting called by the Church Board can be held without the pastor's knowledge.

The pastor is the moderator of all meetings of the Church Board. If there is no pastor, the Church Board shall choose a moderator.

A majority vote of the active members present at any regular or special meeting shall be necessary for all decisions.

The Church Board shall elect a Church Board member as Clerk to keep a record of all Church Board meetings.

### **Section 2 - Congregational Meetings**

The fiscal year of this church shall end on the 31st day of March, and the annual congregational meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days thereafter, the date to be determined by the church board and announced to the congregation in the regular church services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting. Until a Church Board is established, the date shall be determined by the pastor.

The purpose of this meeting shall be the reading of the minutes of the previous year's meeting, the annual report of the treasurer, the presenting of the annual budget, and the

election of elder(s) if necessary, and all other business as may be necessary or desirable.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the church board or by ten percent of the active members of the congregation. Until there is a Church Board, special meetings may be called by the pastor as well. Such meetings must be announced to the congregation in the regular church services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting and business must be confined to that announced in the

call for the meeting.

All active members present, 16 years of age and older, shall be eligible to vote, and constitute a quorum.

A majority vote of the active members present at any constitutionally called congregational business meeting shall be required for the election of officers or to render final decisions in any matter under consideration unless otherwise required by this constitution. (See Article VI-section 2 and section 4; Article IX- section 1).

### **Section 3 - Parliamentary Procedure**

Parliamentary procedures not covered by this constitution shall be determined by the latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

## **ARTICLE VIII- OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

### **Section 1 - Officers Listed**

Officers to be elected by the congregation are Pastor(s) and Elder(s). **The Pastor(s) and Elder(s) shall constitute the Church Board and shall be comprised of men only.** These men must be active members of the church and Scripturally qualified to serve in their respective offices. Other officers to be appointed by the Church Board are Treasurer, Deacons (if needed), and Sunday School Superintendent (if needed). The Church Clerk shall be an Elder on the Church Board and elected to that office by the Church Board.

### **Section 2 - Duties of the Pastor**

The Pastor(s) shall be responsible for the preaching of the Word, and have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services, and administration of the ordinances of the church. He shall act as moderator in the business meetings of the church, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees connected with the church or any of its organizations. He and the Clerk shall maintain records of membership, baptisms, marriages and other such advisable records.

### **Section 3 - Duties of Elders**

The Elders shall be responsible, with the Pastor(s), for the spiritual welfare of the church. They shall assist in administering the ordinances of the church, and shall make necessary provisions for the same. They shall be expected to visit the sick and sorrowing of the congregation, investigate delinquents and endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of the members. They shall faithfully perform all other duties designated by this constitution or pertaining to their office. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and perform their duties in a manner consistent with this constitution and as set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9).

### **Section 4 - Duties of Deacons**

The Deacons shall have the care of the physical properties of the church, and shall hold themselves in readiness to assist in guiding the spiritual life of the church, and administering its ordinances. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and perform their duties in a manner consistent with this constitution and as set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

### **Section 5 - Duties of Clerk**

The Church Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings, both of the congregation and of the church board. He and the Pastor shall be responsible for keeping a record of church membership, admissions, dismissals, deaths, baptisms, dedications, and ordinations services. He shall maintain a complete record of all correspondence and such other records as pertain to his office.

### **Section 6 - Duties of Sunday School Superintendent**

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Sunday Bible School. He shall oversee all Sunday School activities subject to the direction and approval of the Church Board.

### **Section 7 - Duties of Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive, count, and record all church and Sunday School funds and shall make all disbursements authorized by the Church Board, and shall record all personal giving of the congregation and annually issue receipts for the same.

He shall also make a monthly report of receipts and disbursements to the Church Board and an annual report to the congregation. He shall have custody of all legal papers pertaining to the property and finances of the church. He shall submit his records to the Church Board for audit annually at the close of the fiscal year and shall hold them available at all times for inspection by the Church Board.

### **Section 8 - Annual Affirmation of Faith**

Within one month after each annual congregational meeting, the Pastor(s) and the Elder(s) shall be required to affirm and sign the doctrinal statement of the church, and their signatures shall be filed with the Clerk of the Church Board.

## **ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 - Calling a Pastor**

In selecting a pastor(s) the Church Board shall serve as the pulpit committee and shall secure names and qualifications of potential candidates for the pastorate. If these qualifications are found to be in complete harmony with the fundamental and separated stand of this church and with its doctrinal statement and constitution, the candidates may be contacted one at a time to be heard and questioned by the congregation. If, after hearing the candidate preach and after questioning him thoroughly, the Church Board decides by a three-fourths majority to recommend the candidate to the congregation, they shall call a special congregational business meeting for the purpose of voting to call the candidate in question. The call shall be extended upon a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present. The pastor(s) shall be called for an indefinite period and shall serve until their pastorate is terminated by death, resignation, or vote of the active members. The pastor(s) shall give a minimum of thirty days notice before termination their services. In the event the active members

terminate the pastorate abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for thirty days.

In the event that the personal belief, preaching, or teaching, or moral conduct of the pastor(s) changes so that it is no longer in full agreement with the doctrinal statement, constitution, and separated position of this church, his services as pastor shall be terminated by resignation or by vote of the active members.

All associate and assistant pastors shall be regulated in the same way.

## **Section 2 - Election of Elders**

The Church Board shall serve as the nominating committee, with the pastor as the chairman, to select candidates for Elder(s) of the church. The list of nominations shall be read to the congregation and posted at least two weeks prior to the annual congregational business meeting.

The Church Board shall carefully examine each and every man nominated for elder to determine their qualifications, agreement with the doctrinal statement, constitution, separatist stand and such other standards as may be established by the church or the Church Board. All nominees shall be required to answer in affirmative the following questions:

A. Have you publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior and experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3-6?

B. Are you in hearty agreement with the doctrinal statement of this church, with its constitution, and with its standards?

C. If you should change your views regarding the doctrines and stand of this church, would you recognize it as your duty to report these changes to the Church Board and to submit your resignation and office?

D. Are you living a dedicated, prayerful Christian life, especially as regards loyal observance of the moral precepts taught in the Word of God for believers, including:

(1) Separation from the world in the spirit of 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Titus 2:11-15;

(2) Freedom from membership in oath bound religious or secret social organizations or entangling alliances with unbelievers;

(3) Willingness to put out of your life any sin which the Holy Spirit may reveal to you?

## **Section 3 - Terms of Elders**

At such a time as there are a sufficient number of men who are qualified to serve as elders, the following terms of official service as elders shall apply.

The elders shall be elected for three-year terms, and upon completion of each full term in office shall not be eligible for reelection to the same office during the year immediately following the expiration of the completed term.

Any vacancy may be filled by a vote of the active membership, acting in accordance with Article IX, section 2.

All elders shall serve until their successors take office except in the case of discipline.

## **Section 4 - Other Personnel**

Other members of the church personnel including Sunday School department superintendents and teachers, VBS superintendents and teachers, youth counselors, music leaders, and Christian school board members shall be appointed by the Church Board and must be active members of the church. Regular choir members must be active Christians. The ushering staff shall be appointed by the Church Board.

## **ARTICLE X - ORDINATION**

### **Section 1 - Power of Ordination**

When in the judgment of the Church Board, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Church Board to call and conduct a counsel of ordination, providing such authority is granted by two-thirds majority vote of the active members present in a congregational business meeting.

### **Section 2 - Sphere of Examination**

The ordaining counsel shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The following shall not be ordained to the Christian ministry:

A. One who has not served at least six months in definite Christian work in such a manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry; and

B. One who is addicted to intoxicating liquor, drugs, or tobacco in any form; or one who belongs to a secret society or who would bring disrepute upon the ministry through worldly practices and associations (Romans 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15).

### **Section 3 - Discipline**

It shall be within the province of this church to discipline even to revoking of the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the above practices after impartial trial conducted in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13.

## **ARTICLE XI - FINANCING**

All expenses of this church, its missionary program, and all its organizations shall be met by free-will offerings only. In the event the church should begin a Christian school, tuition may be charged to assist in financing the ministry.

An annual budget shall be presented at the annual congregational meeting for approval. The proposed annual budget shall be prepared by the Church Board.

## **ARTICLE XII - CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any regular or called congregational business meeting, provided that the proposed amendment has been printed and distributed at each regular church service for two Sundays preceding said meeting.

## **OUR CHURCH COVENANT**

We, the members of Middlefield Bible Church, do covenant together, God helping us, that as strangers and pilgrims we will abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; that we will put away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, and will be kind and forgiving, one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us; that as we have opportunity we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith; that we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God; and that we will give as God hath prospered us; not grudgingly or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver.

## **OUR MISSIONARY POLICY**

### **I**

Prospective missionary candidates shall be able to give full assent to the statement of faith contained in our church constitution.

### **II**

Such candidates should hold sympathetically without reserve, the position of this home church with respect to complete separation from apostasy and any entanglements therewith. Those who could go as easily and without compunctions of conscience under the old-line denominational mission boards could hardly qualify as taking the position of Middlefield Bible Church in matters of Biblical separation. The Church Board will take into consideration the work and testimony of the individual in the home field as an indication of his or her attitude toward scriptural separation.

### **III**

It shall be expected that prospective missionary candidates, desiring the prayerful and financial support of this church, shall seek to go to the fields of their call under such missionary boards and agencies as are in essential accord with our statement of faith. They should be agencies free from all connections with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Christian Churches, and the National Association of Evangelicals or such other organizations as may work in harmony therewith.